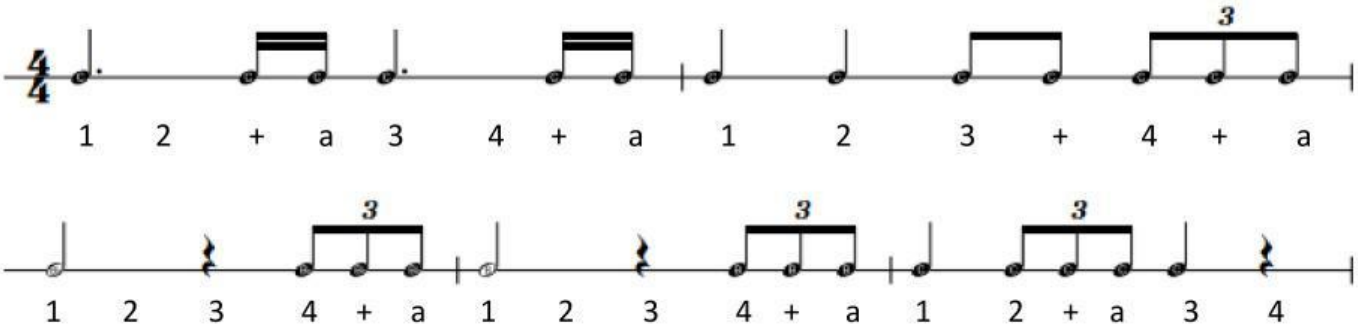
Fanfare Rhythms & the Harmonic Series

A **fanfare** is a short, exciting piece of music, often played on brass instruments like trumpets or horns. Fanfares sound bold and strong, like a musical announcement.

Fanfare rhythms are usually clear and easy to hear. They often use repeated notes, long–short patterns, or strong accents. Rests (silence) are important too—they help the music sound confident and dramatic.

❑ Have a go at clapping this rhythm:



The **harmonic series** is a group of notes that naturally sound good together. Brass instruments can easily play these notes. The notes are spaced farther apart than in a normal scale, so fanfares often use big jumps instead of step-by-step melodies.



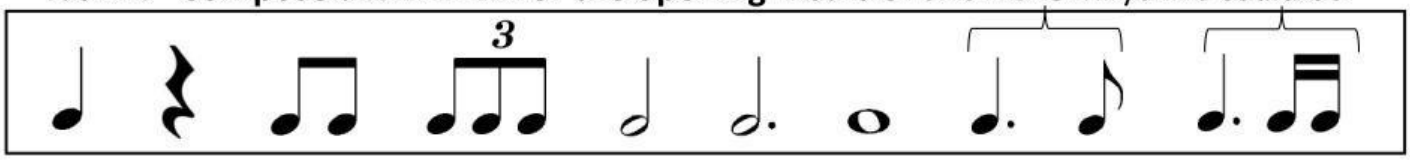
When writing a fanfare, use only a few notes from the harmonic series and focus on rhythm and energy rather than lots of different pitches.

❑ Listen to the opening fanfare from *Star Wars- the Throne room*. This uses the rhythms you clapped above and notes from the harmonic series. Can you find the one bar that has notes that are not in the harmonic series?



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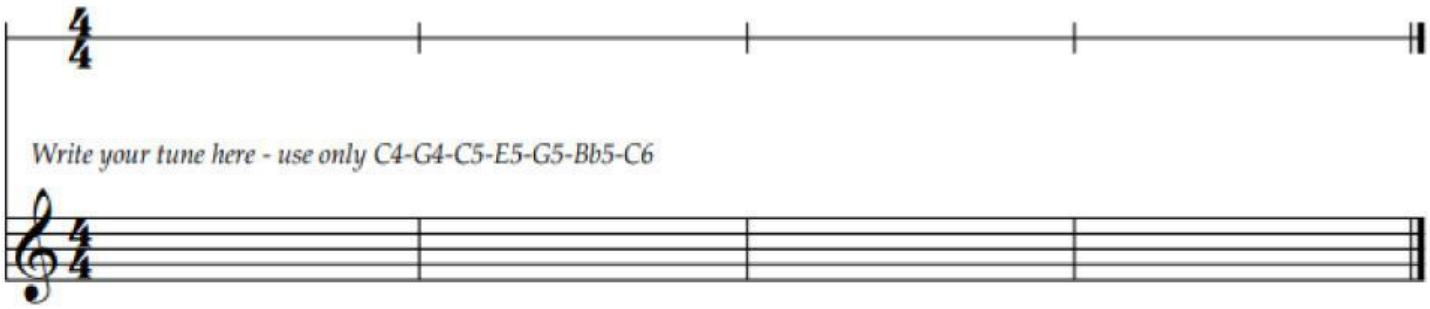
➢ **Task 1: Compose a RHYTHM for the opening 4 bars of a fanfare**. Rhythms could be:



=1 beat =1 beat =1 beat = 1 beat =2 beats =3 beats =4 beats =2 beats =2 beats

❑ Write your rhythm on the top line below. You will come back and write a tune in task 2.

Write your rhythm here



Write your tune here - use only C4-G4-C5-E5-G5-Bb5-C6

Checkpoint

- Does each bar add up to 4 beats?
- Does it sound like a fanfare rhythm?
- Can I clap it?
- Have I used some repetition?

➢ **Task 2: Compose a melody for this opening fanfare rhythm**. For this you should use:

- ❑ Notes in the harmonic series – **C G C E G Bb C**
- ❑ Repeated notes to make it sound punchy and energetic
- ❑ Use the rhythms you have made up– *make sure you have a note name for every rhythm note head.*
- ❑ Write you tune in the manuscript lines above. You can always write the letters underneath and then turn them into musical notation.

Harmonic series



C4 G4 C5 E5 G5 Bb5 C6



Checkpoint

- Does my tune fit the rhythm?
- Has it got repeated notes to sound like a fanfare?
- Are you happy with how it sounds? If not, what can you do to improve it?

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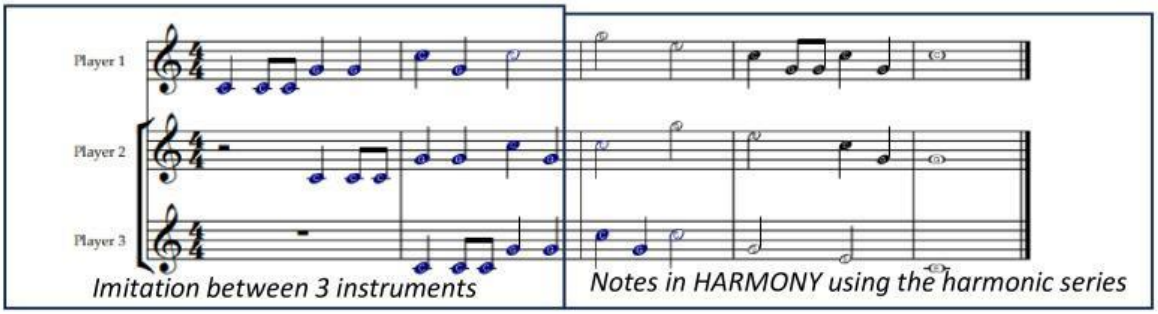
Another exciting feature you can use in a fanfare is **imitation** between instruments.
This is when one instrument plays a short musical idea and another instrument copies it, like an echo, with the tune passed between instruments. In a brass fanfare, this might mean:

- The trumpets play the main tune first.
- The horns or trombones repeat the same rhythm just after.
- Sometimes they overlap slightly, so the music feels like it is building up.

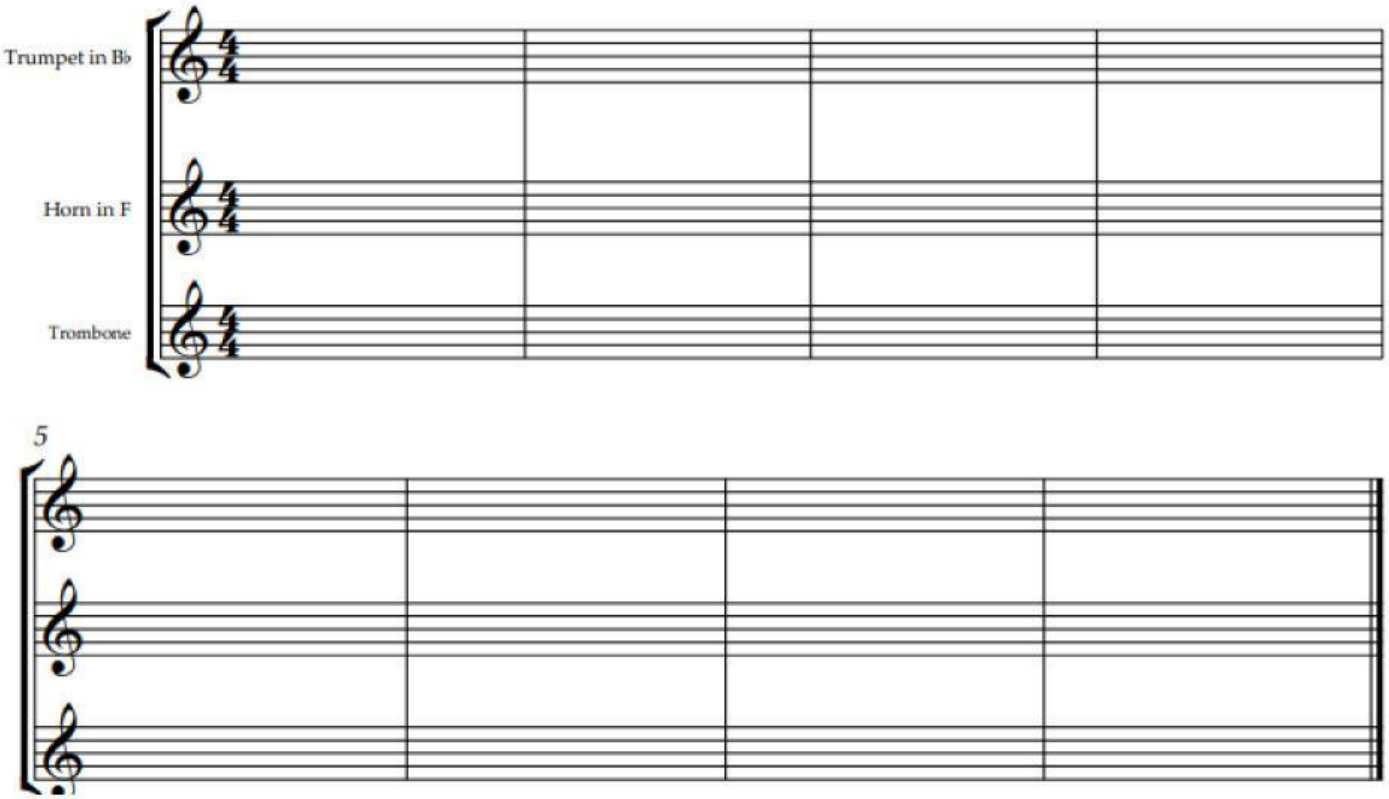
This creates a **dynamic and energetic texture** because:

- The music feels like it is moving forward.
- The sound grows bigger as more instruments join in.
- It adds excitement and power, which suits the bold character of a fanfare.

Using imitation as well as notes in HARMONY, makes the fanfare sound more dramatic. e.g.



➢ Task 3: **Using your existing fanfare melody** (from task 2)**, create a 3 part texture** for trumpet, horn and trombone that uses a mixture of IMITATION and harmony notes. For now, **stick to using the harmonic series.**



➢ Task 4. **Input your 3 parts into flat.io**.

- Add suitable **dynamics.**.
- Add a simple bass drum part
- Add any other percussion you choose.

IMPORTANT
Make sure you
toggle concert pitch
on flat.io



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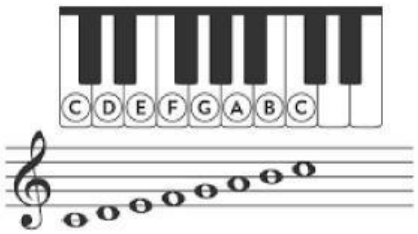
Listen to the opening of the Throne room from Star Wars and the melody that follows the initial fanfare. Here is the music:



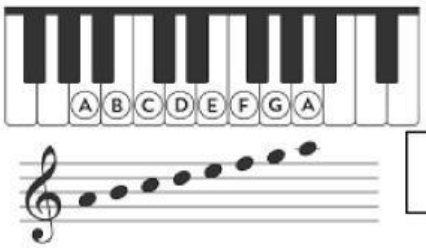
❑ Name any features that make it sound bold and powerful

➢ Task 5. **Compose a melody for the main section.** For this, you can use either a major or minor key and can use more than just the harmonic series. Have a think whether you want it to be triumphant and joyful or bold and menacing!

Notes of the C major scale



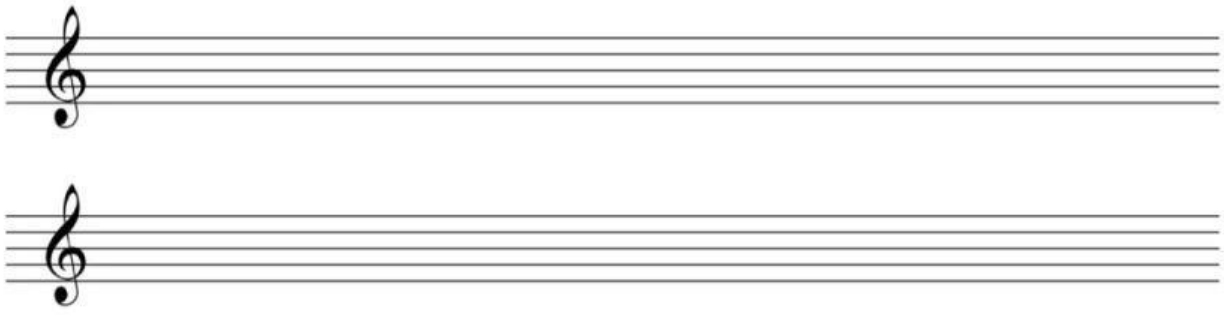
Notes of the A minor piano scale



The G could be G# in this key

- **Rhythm:** Keep a strong, steady pulse, but try a **slightly longer note in the first bar** to let the fanfare tune "breathe."
- **Melodic shape** Start with a **leap upward** (for power.
  Follow with a **descending stepwise motion** to echo authority.
- **Length:** Keep it **4–8 bars** to follow naturally after the fanfare.
- **Extra Challenge:** Add **one unexpected leap or chromatic note** to give a heroic or slightly menacing twist.

❑ Write your melody here and then input into flat.io



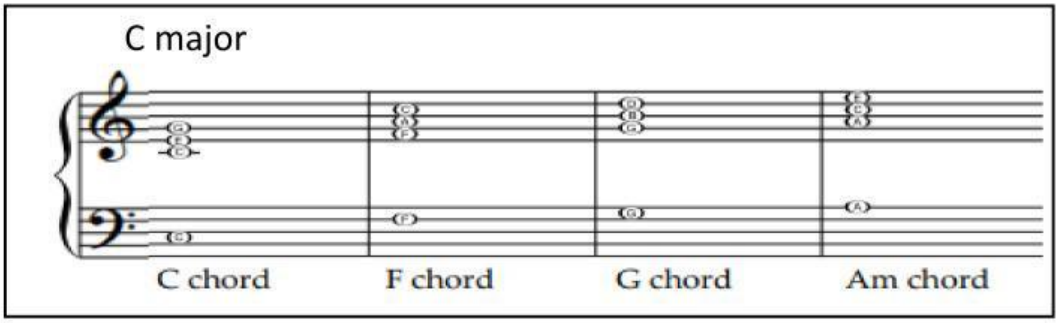
Checkpoint

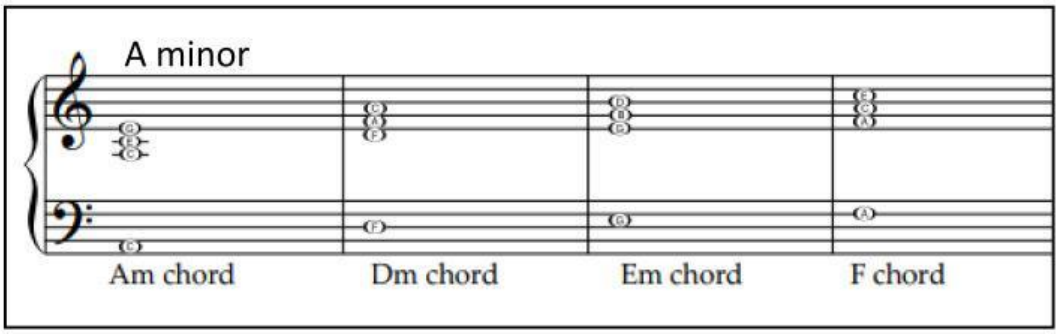
- Have I got 4 beats in each bar?
- Have I used a suitable combination of note values and rests?
- Have I used a combination of leaps and stepwise movement to create a bold fanfare theme?
- Have I included a more unusual leap or note?

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➢ Task 6. Complete your fanfare arrangement on flat.io.

- Add simple harmony notes or use imitation in your other parts to create a full texture.
- NB The other parts need to fit with your melody. Think about what notes go well together – <u>use the chords information below to help with this:</u>
- Add in suitable dynamics and articulation *(e.g. staccato, accents)*
- Add in any extra percussion that you feel is appropriate





Here is an example of a possible simple harmony part that fits the *Star Wars Throne room* melody. The chords fit with the notes of the melody. Dynamics and articulation is also added.



Checkpoint

- Have I added in harmony parts for the other brass instruments that fit the tune?
- Have I added in dynamics and articulation?
- Does the balance work well on flat.io or do I need to alter the volume on some parts?
- Have I exported this as an mp3?

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➢ Additional Listening 1: Fanfare for the Common Man

Probably one of the best-known modern fanfares is "**Fanfare for the Common Man**" written by the American composer Aaron Copland. In the middle of World War II, an English conductor called Eugene Goosens asked Copland to compose a fanfare, premiered in Cincinnati on 12th March 1943 and it has remained the most famous fanfare ever since. Listen to it and answer the questions below:

1. The fanfare starts with an introduction before the melody begins. What instruments are playing in the introduction and which family of the orchestra do they come from?

2. What is the first brass instrument that we hear that plays the melody?

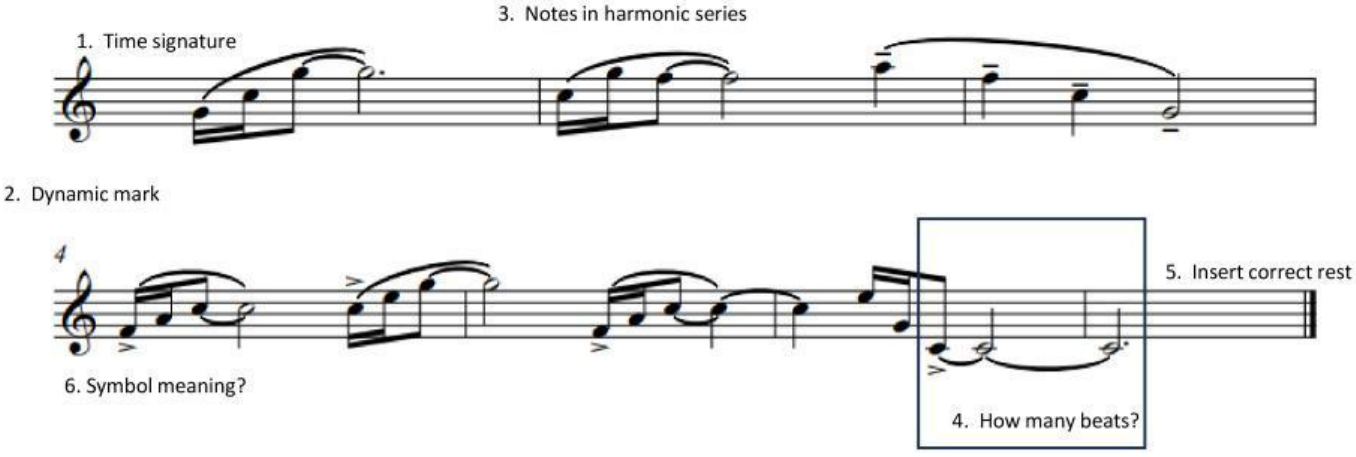
3. Does the pitch of the opening three notes of the melody get ***higher*** or ***lower*** in pitch?

4. What other brass instruments do we hear playing in the fanfare?

5. What happens to the ***dynamics*** in the fanfare?

6. What about the ***texture***

Now listen again to 'Fanfare for the Common Man', following the score below. Complete the answers underneath:



1. Put an appropriate time signature at the start of the music.
2. Put the symbol for 'loud' under the first note.
3. Circle all the notes that form the harmonic series on the trumpet.
4. How many beats does the last note last for?
5. There is a rest missing from the last bar. Insert the correct rest
6. What does > under the notes mean?

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➢ Additional Listening 2: Olympic Fanfare

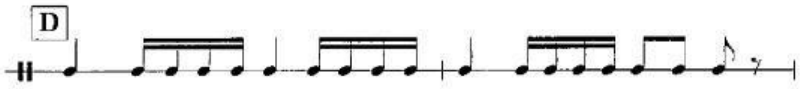
This music was composed by John Williams as the official theme for the 1984 Olympic Games.

1. Tick **ONE** box to indicate which rhythm best represents the music played by the **SNARE DRUM**.

☐ A 

☐ B 

☐ C 

☐ D 

2. Apart from the snare drum, name **TWO** other percussion instruments you can hear.

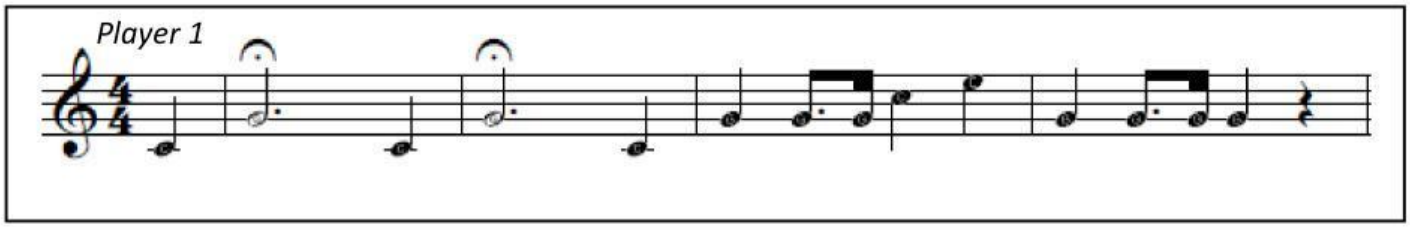
3. Describe **THREE** features of the music that make it suitable for the occasion that it was composed for. You must name the musical feature and show how it links to the occasion.

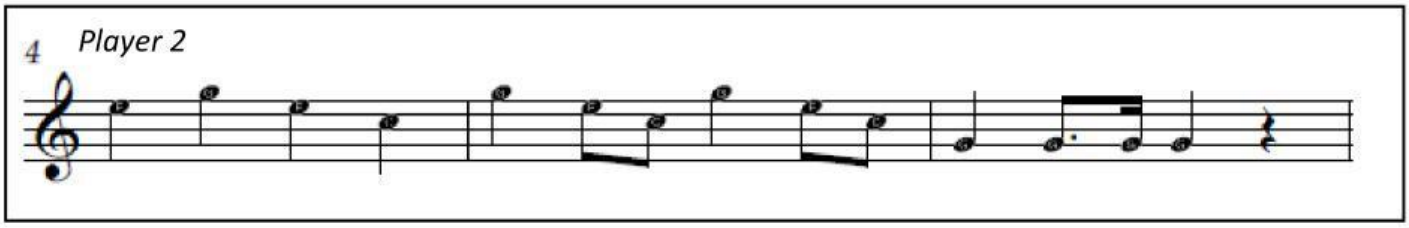
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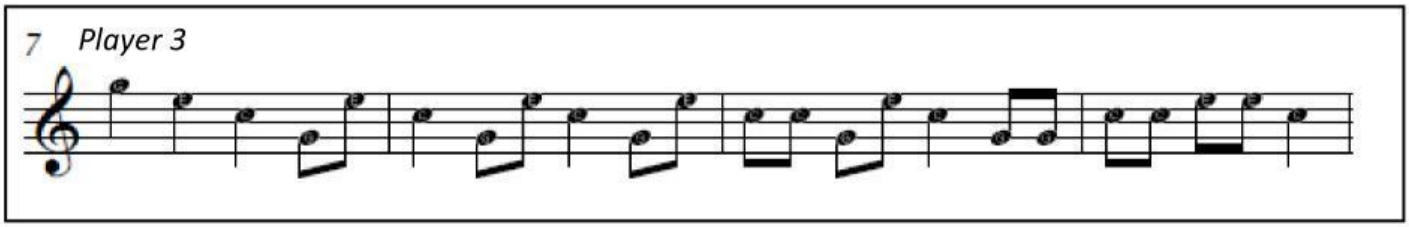
➢ Additional performance – Last Post

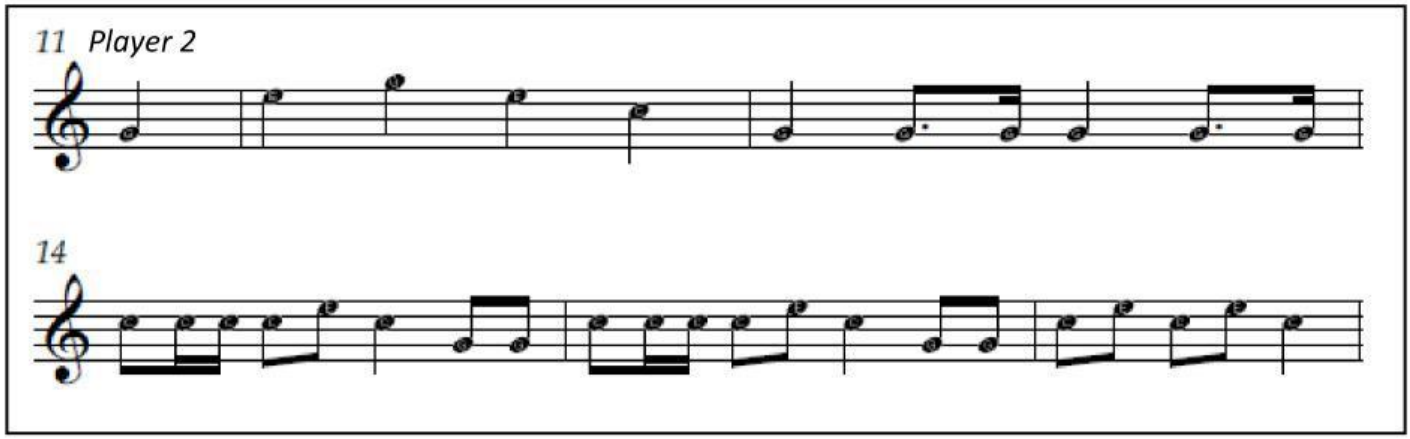
In groups of 3, practise and perform the Last Post. Decide who will play player 1,2 and 3 and then practise together, making sure you keep in time. If you have time, swap parts. The last post only uses the notes from the harmonic series.

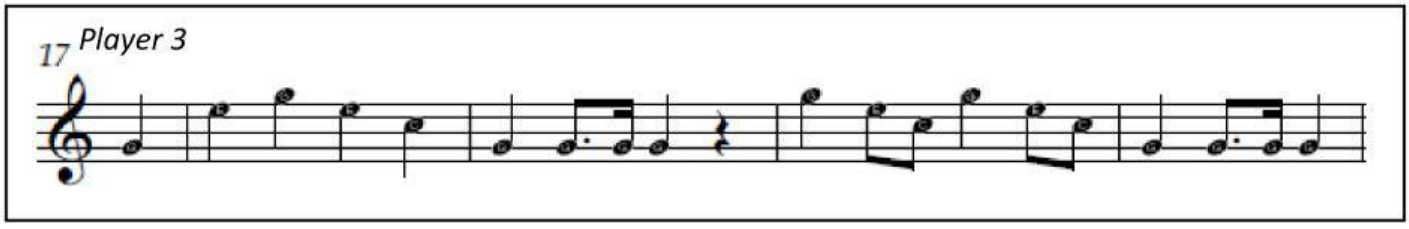


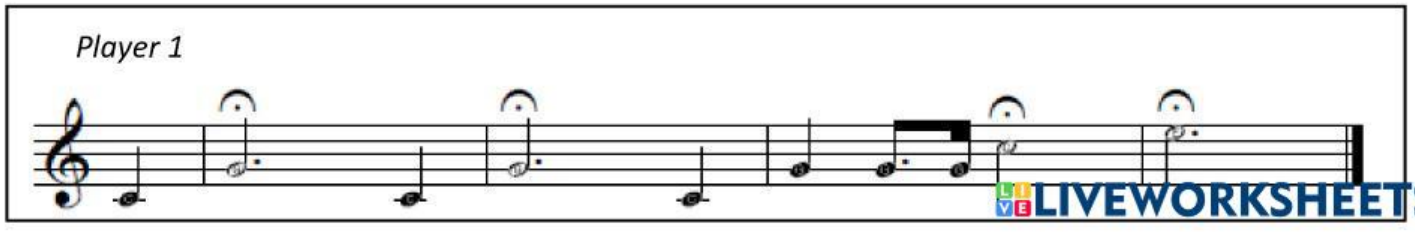












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